

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-49. (Canceled)

50. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for exchanging information within a group of users on a wide area network, comprising:

~~processing a defined topic comprising one or more human language words to determine whether it is qualified;~~

~~determining, at a host server, if the defined topic is duplicative of pre-existing topics stored within a memory of a server computer;~~

~~serving a the defined topic-specific user interface to a plurality of remote clients over the a wide area network if the defined topic is determined to be qualified and not duplicative of the stored preexisting topics;~~

~~receiving information posts responsive to the a defined topic;~~

~~receiving a plurality of links to respective different remote information resources, each containing information related to the defined topic from certain of the plurality of remote clients, wherein the plurality of links are distinct from the information posts;~~

~~integrating the defined topic, updating the topic-specific user interface to include the information posts, and [[a]] the plurality of links to respective different remote information resources each containing information related to the defined topic, to provide an integrated information resource, the plurality of links being distinct from the information posts;~~

~~updating the topic-specific user interface to include serving user-interface objects associated with respective posts or links, for wherein the user interface objects are configured to enable users to rate[[ing]] the relevance of respective ones of the information posts and of the plurality of links to the defined topic with the integrated information resource to the plurality of remote clients;~~

~~receiving user ratings from the plurality of remote clients responsive to the user-interface objects;~~

aggregating the user ratings from the plurality of remote clients to provide determine aggregate relevance ratings data; and

publishing updating the topic-specific user interface so that the aggregate relevance-ratings data with the information posts and with the plurality of links to the plurality of remote clients as indicating user-rated relevance of respective ones of the information posts and of the remote information resources to the defined topic; the information posts and the plurality of links in the topic-specific user interface are displayed in a ranked order according to the aggregate relevance ratings data; and

serving the updated topic-specific user interface to requesting users,

wherein at least some of the method is performed by a suitably configured computing system having one or more computing devices.

51. (Canceled)

52. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 50, further comprising ~~serving the~~ wherein the user-interface objects are further configured for providing to enable the users ~~an option to rate the~~ respective ones of the information posts and of the plurality of links according to predetermined rating values.

53. (Canceled)

54. (Canceled)

55. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 50, further comprising ~~compiling the aggregating~~~~[[e]] relevance ratings data~~ user ratings for information posts associated with one or more selected users to provide a user rating score identified as submitted by respective ones of the group of users to provide source associated rating data, wherein each rating in the source associated rating data is calculated from a portion of the aggregate relevance ratings data pertaining exclusively to information posts identified as submitted by a different respective one of the group of users.

56. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 55, further comprising ranking the group of one or more selected users according to each user's respective one of the group of users' respective rating in the source associated rating data user rating score.

57. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 55, further comprising updating the user interface to include one or more of the user rating scores providing the users an option to receive a rating in the source-associated rating data for each user that has provided information posts to the integrated information resource.

58. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 55, further comprising receiving preference information from the plurality of remote clients, wherein the preference information specifies threshold criteria, set by respective ones of the group of users employing the remote clients, for filtering the information posts according to the respective user rating scores ~~source-associated rating data applied to the contributor of each post of the information posts.~~

59. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 50, further comprising presenting the plurality of links on a menu of a web page.

60. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 59, further comprising presenting the plurality of links grouped in a corresponding plurality of menus of the web page, wherein each of the plurality of menus contains links pertaining to a category of information.

61. (Canceled)

62. (Canceled)

63. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 50[[62]], further comprising performing an action selected from adding a link to the plurality of links, and deleting a link from the plurality of links, according to the aggregated relevance ratings data ~~a ranking determined in the ranking step.~~

64. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 50, further comprising receiving preference information from the respective requesting users, wherein the preference information specifies a threshold aggregate relevance ratings data and wherein the topic-specific user interface includes only information posts having aggregate relevance ratings data that exceeds the threshold ~~criteria for filtering the information posts according to the aggregate relevance ratings data.~~

65. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 64, further comprising serving an interactive tolerance bar for providing the users an option to send the preference information.

66. (Canceled)

67. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 50[[66]], further comprising ranking the plurality of links according to a ~~measured~~ measurement of activity of respective ones of at least a portion of the plurality of links ~~the at least one link back on the different remote information resources.~~

68. (Canceled)

69. (Canceled)

70. (New) The method according to Claim 67, wherein the measurement of activity of respective ones of the plurality of links comprises measurement of at least one of a first number of requests received by the topic specific user interface for the respective remote information resources of the plurality of links and/or a second number of requests received for the topic-specific user interface from the respective remote information resources of the plurality of links.

71. (New) A computing system comprising one or more computing devices configured to exchange information within a group of users on a wide area network, comprising:

- a computing device operative to:

- provide a topic-specific user interface that enables display of a defined topic to a plurality of remote clients over a wide area network;

- receive information posts responsive to the defined topic and a plurality of links to respective different remote information resources each containing information related to the defined topic;

- receive user ratings indicating relevance of respective ones of the information posts to the defined topic and relevance of ones of the plurality of links to the defined topic;

- aggregate the user ratings to determine aggregate relevance ratings for respective information posts and links; and

- update the topic-specific user interface to include the information posts and the plurality of links in a ranked order according to the aggregate relevance ratings for respective information posts and links; and

a data store in communication with the computing device, the data store operative to store at least one of the information posts, the plurality of links, and the user ratings.

72. (New) The system according to Claim 71, wherein the computing device is further operative to apply a relative weighting factor to the received user ratings based on one or more attributes associated with the respective user.

73. (New) The system according to Claim 71, wherein the computing device is further operative to update the user interface to include the user rating of respective information posts.

74. (New) The system according to Claim 71, wherein the computing device is further operative to aggregate user ratings for information posts associated with one or more selected users to provide a user rating score.

75. (New) The system according to Claim 74, wherein the computing device is further operative to rank the one or more selected users according to each user's respective user rating score.

76. (New) The system according to Claim 74, wherein the computing device is further operative to update the user interface to include one or more user rating scores.

77. (New) The system according to Claim 74, wherein a user's ability to provide user ratings is dependent upon their respective user rating score.

78. (New) The system according to Claim 71, wherein the ranking of respective ones of the information posts and the plurality of links are time dependent.

79. (New) The system according to Claim 78, wherein the ranking of respective ones of the information posts and the plurality of links decreases with time absent receipt of new user ratings.

80. (New) The system according to Claim 71, wherein the computing device is further operative to receive preference information from the users, wherein the preference information specifies a threshold criterion for filtering the information posts according to the respective aggregate relevance ratings.

81. (New) The system according to Claim 71, further comprising ranking the plurality of links according to a measurement of activity of respective ones of at least a portion of the plurality of links.

82. (New) The system according to Claim 81, wherein the measurement of activity of respective ones of the plurality of links comprises a measurement of at least one of a first number of requests received by the topic-specific user interface for the respective remote information resources of the plurality of links and a second number of requests received for the topic-specific user interface from the respective remote information resources of the plurality of links.

83. (New) A computer-implemented method for exchanging information, the method comprising:

- generating a user interface for display of a defined topic that enables user input of information posts related to the defined topic and a plurality of links to respective different remote information resources each containing information related to the defined topic;

- for respective information posts,

- receiving user ratings indicating relevance of respective information posts to the defined topic from respective users;

- aggregating the user ratings for respective information posts to determine aggregate relevance ratings for respective information posts;
- and

- wherein at least some of the information posts are listed in the user interface in a ranked order according to the aggregate relevance ratings for the information posts; and

- for respective links,

- measure activity of respective links; and,

- for each link whose measured activity exceeds a selected value, update the user interface to include the respective link in the user interface.

84. (New) The method according to Claim 83, wherein activity of respective links comprises at least one of a first number of requests received by the user interface for the remote information resource associated with the respective link and a second number of requests received for the user interface from the remote information resource.

85. (New) The method according to Claim 83, wherein links whose measured activity falls below the selected value are not included in the user interface.

86. (New) The method according to Claim 83, wherein a relative weighting factor is applied to the received user ratings, based upon the respective user.

87. (New) The method according to Claim 83, further comprising updating the user interface to display the user rating of respective information posts.

88. (New) The method according to Claim 83, further comprising aggregating user ratings for information posts associated with one or more selected users to provide a user rating score.

89. (New) The method according to Claim 88, further comprising ranking the one or more selected users according to each user's respective user rating score.

90. (New) The method according to Claim 88, further comprising updating the user interface to include one or more user rating scores.

91. (New) The method according to Claim 88, wherein a user's ability to provide user ratings is dependent upon their respective user rating score.

92. (New) A tangible computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon, the instructions comprising:

- instructions for serving a topic-specific user interface to a plurality of remote clients over a wide area network;

- instructions for receiving information posts responsive to the defined topic and a plurality of links to respective different remote information resources, each containing information related to the defined topic from certain of the plurality of remote clients, wherein the plurality of links are distinct from the information posts;

- instructions for updating the topic-specific user interface to include the information posts and the plurality of links;

- instructions for updating the topic-specific user interface to include user-interface objects associated with respective posts or links, wherein the user interface objects are configured to enable users to rate the relevance of respective ones of the information posts and of the plurality of links to the defined topic;

instructions for receiving user ratings from the plurality of remote clients responsive to the user-interface objects;

instructions for aggregating the user ratings to determine aggregate relevance rankings;

instructions for updating the topic-specific user interface so that information posts and the plurality of links in the topic-specific user interface are displayed in a ranked order according to the aggregate relevance rankings; and

instructions for serving the updated topic-specific user interface.

93. (New) The tangible computer-readable medium according to Claim 92, further comprising instructions for aggregating user ratings for information posts associated with one or more selected users to provide a user rating score.

94. (New) The tangible computer-readable medium according to Claim 93, further comprising instructions for ranking the one or more selected users according to each user's respective user rating score.

95. (New) The tangible computer-readable medium according to Claim 93, further comprising instructions for updating the user interface to include one or more of the user rating scores.

96. (New) The tangible computer-readable medium according to Claim 92, further comprising instructions for performing an action selected from adding a link to the plurality of links, and deleting a link from the plurality of links, according to the aggregated relevance ratings data.

97. (New) The tangible computer-readable medium according to Claim 92, further comprising instructions for receiving preference information from the users, wherein the preference information specifies a threshold criteria for filtering the information posts according to the user rating score.

98. (New) The tangible computer-readable medium according to Claim 97, further comprising instructions for serving an interactive tolerance bar for providing the users an option to send the preference information.

99. (New) The tangible computer-readable medium according to Claim 92, further comprising instructions for ranking the plurality of links according to measurement of activity of respective ones of at least a portion of the plurality of links.



100. (New) The tangible computer-readable medium according to Claim 99, wherein measurement of activity of respective ones of the plurality of links comprises measurement of at least one of a first number or requests received by the user interface for the respective remote information resources of the plurality of links and a second number of requests received for the user interface from the respective remote information resources of the plurality of links.

101. (New) The tangible computer-readable medium according to Claim 92, wherein the ranking of respective ones of the information posts and the plurality of links are time dependent.

102. (New) The tangible computer-readable medium according to Claim 101, wherein the ranking of respective ones of the information posts and the plurality of links decrease with time absent receipt of new user ratings.